## REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 9 and 17, leaves claims 2-8 and 10-16 unchanged and cancels claims 18-26. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-17.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17-20 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Monroe (U.S. Patent No. 6,970,183) in view of Onuma (JP No. 2001-167365); Claims 18 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Monroe in view of Alexander (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0143938); claims 3, 11 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Monroe, in view of Onuma and further in view of Ludtke (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0089517); and claims 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Monroe in view of Onuma, in view of Tachi (U.S. Patent No. 4,232,347) and further in view of Alexander. As indicated above, claims 18-26 were canceled. Therefore, the above noted rejections with respect to claims 18-26 are rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above noted rejections with respect to claims 18-26 is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 18-26 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 18-26 are taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. The cancellation of claims 18-26 was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application. Applicants hereby reserve their right to pursue the invention as set forth in claims 18-26 in a continuing application.

The above noted rejections with respect to the remaining claims 1-17 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in claims 1-17 are not taught or suggested by Monroe, Onuma, Ludtke, Tachi and Alexander whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to a video distribution system connected to a communication network for distributing an image in response to a request.

According to the present invention the video distribution system includes at least one image pickup unit for picking up an image of a predetermined monitor area and converting said image into a video signal, at least one encoder connected to receive the video signal from said image pickup unit, each encoder encoding the video signal from an associated image pickup unit and sending said encoded video signal to said network, an image accumulation and distribution unit connected to said network for accumulating the encoded video signal from a designated encoder, said image accumulation and distribution unit attaching unique information to each image frame, a data converter for image browsing, connected to said network for reading the accumulated image from said image accumulation and distribution unit and converting said image into a reduced image in response to a request, at least one information terminal with or without a browsing

program installed therein, connected by wire or radio to said network for acquiring and displaying an image by accessing said image accumulation and distribution unit or said data converter for imaging browsing, and a notification unit connected to said network for reading the accumulated image from said image accumulation and distribution unit, detecting an image change indicating an abnormality in said monitor area, accumulating the unique information on the image change and displaying the alarm information containing the change occurrence time on an associated information terminal.

Further, according to the present invention the information terminal accesses said image accumulation and distribution unit or said data converter for image browsing in response to an operation of said associated information terminal by the user and acquires the image in a predetermined time range related to said change occurrence time from said image accumulation and distribution unit or said data converter.

Still further, according to the present invention, for an information terminal having the browser program interlocked with an email function, said notification unit sends unique information on an image change to the information terminal via email, and in response, said data conversion unit for image browsing sends a reduced image corresponding to said unique information received from said information terminal to said information terminal and, for an information terminal having no browser program interlocked with the email function, said notification unit, in response to connection from said information terminal, sends unique information accumulated in the notification unit to said information terminal so as to connect the data conversion unit to said information terminal in response to

selection of the unique information by the information terminal, wherein said data converter distributes an image in a form displayable on said information terminal to said information terminal.

Thus, the present invention provides an information terminal having the browser program interlocked with an e-mail function, wherein the notification unit sends unique information on an image change to the information terminal via e-mail and, in response, the data conversion unit for image browsing sends a reduced image corresponding to the unique information received from the information terminal to the information terminal.

Further, the present invention provides that for an information terminal having no browser program interlocked with the e-mail function, the notification unit, in response to connection from the information terminal, sends unique information accumulated in the notification unit to the information terminal so as to connect the data conversion unit to the information terminal in response to selection of the unique information by the information terminal, wherein the data converter distributes an image in a form displayable on the information terminal to the information terminal.

Thus, the video distribution system of the present invention includes features that operate differently depending on whether or not the information terminal has a browsing program interlocked with an e-mail function.

In the specification of the present application, for example, on page 1, lines 17-20 it is stated that "a video distribution system which can fully meet the individual requirements of a plurality of clients connected to a transmission path such as an Internet has yet to be developed" and on page 2, lines 13-17 it is stated that "Still another object is to provide a video distribution method

and a video distribution system in which an image can be distributed in accordance with the request from a client terminal having a comparatively limited processing capacity".

Further, In the specification of the present application, for example, on page 22, lines 14-21 it is stated that "therefore, the reduced image data are transmitted from the image browsing data converter 1007 to the terminal units such as the portable terminals 1021 capable of displaying only limited data while the dynamic images can be distributed from the image accumulation and distribution unit 1004 to the terminal like the client PCs 1013 having the function of reproducing the dynamic images. ... ".

Thus, as is clear from the above the present invention includes features of distributing different data to information terminals depending on whether the terminals have a large data processing capacity or a small data processing capacity. The amended claims are intended to cover this feature by the added language that "for an information terminal having the browser program interlocked with an e-mail function, said notification unit sends ... and, for an information terminal having no browser program interlocked with the e-mail function, said notification unit, ..., sends ... ".

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Monroe, Onuma, Ludtke, Tachi and Alexander whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Thus, each of Monroe, Onuma, Ludtke, Tachi and Alexander fails to teach or suggest that for an information terminal having the browser program interlocked with an email function, said notification unit sends unique information on an image change to the information terminal via email, and in response, said data conversion unit for image browsing sends a reduced image corresponding to said unique information received from said information terminal to said information terminal and, for an information terminal having no browser program interlocked with the email function, said notification unit, in response to connection from said information terminal, sends unique information accumulated in the notification unit to said information terminal so as to connect the data conversion unit to said information terminal in response to selection of the unique information by the information terminal, wherein said data converter distributes an image in a form displayable on said information terminal to said information terminal as recited in the claims.

Therefore, since each of Monroe, Onuma, Ludtke, Tachi and Alexander fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims, combining these references in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action does not render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejections of claims 1-17 as being unpatentable over the combination of two or more of Monroe, Onuma, Ludtke, Tachi and Alexander is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized in the rejection of claims 1-17.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.43749X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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